

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have enjoyed my colleague's remarks, and although we have our differences on some of them, I appreciate her diligence and effort. I have a lot of respect for her.

I will say that continually asking to go off the Estrada matter for other matters really concerns me, because I think it is a failure to recognize that this is one of the most important nominees and one of the most important positions in the country. There is one way to get off of this nomination, and that is to vote up or down, instead of filibustering. Do what has always been done in the past in these matters and bring this issue to a vote. Then we can go to these important economic matters and other matters as well.

I have been concerned, because I remember when the minority leader and the minority whip came on the floor last week and basically said: Why are we not on economic issues?

I did get very upset because I thought that is nice for them to say that, but they were not even willing to do a budget last year because it takes a lot of guts to do a budget. We always did. Last year was the first time in the history of the Budget Act that the majority party refused to do a budget. We know why. Because they made a lot of cheap shots against us when we had to make those tough decisions on the budget. Then all of a sudden they found they were in a position where shots could be taken against them, cheap or otherwise, and they were not able to get together on their side because they had so many factions on their side that did not agree.

So it is easy to criticize, but you better have a better standing to criticize than what I think they have.

Also, the reason we had to have this omnibus appropriations bill after the first of the year is because our colleagues on the other side could not pass the appropriations bills. We did it in a matter of weeks after we came into power this year. I think that is something the Republicans deserve a great deal of credit for. Our colleagues on the other side deserve some criticism for it.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that

violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred January 5, 2002 in Tacoma, WA. Three gay men were attacked and another woman shot in a nightclub parking lot. When the three men walked to the nightclub parking lot, they were confronted by two or three other men in a truck who asked "Are you gay? Are you gay?" The men in the truck said that it was a "straight parking lot" and demanded that the gay men leave. The men in the truck then approached the victims and began beating them. A woman and her husband came to the aid of the victims, and the assailants shot the woman once in the chest. The bullet traveled through her chest and lodged in her cheek. She was treated at a local hospital and was later released.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens—to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of our most essential and enduring national endeavors: the Peace Corps.

Last Friday, February 28, was National Peace Corps day. While the Senate was not in session on Friday, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Peace Corps—an institution that is certainly deserving of our praise and support.

As my colleagues are aware, it is always with tremendous fondness and pride that I speak of the Peace Corps. It gives me occasion to recall my own years as a volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Indeed, I have often spoken of how these 2 years changed my life. Living and working outside of the United States and seeing the way other nations operated for the first time, I grew to appreciate our Nation more and more, and developed a strong sense of what it means to be an American. I was proud to share my experience as an American citizen with the people I was there to help. Those 2 years were invaluable to me, and truly brought home to me the value of public service.

It was 42 years ago when President Kennedy laid out his vision for the future of American volunteer service. Speaking of a corps of committed and idealistic young volunteers who would travel all over the world "promoting world peace and friendship," he saw public service as an ideal to transcend political rhetoric. Peace Corps volunteers were not to reflect particular Republican or Democratic ideology. Rath-

er, their service would be a manifestation of the core American values we all share.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans have responded to President Kennedy's call, and the Peace Corps now sends more than 7,000 volunteers to 76 different countries every year. This means that there are 7,000 important American liaisons scattered around the world helping people and promoting American values. In fact, the need for such ambassadors—people who truly show the world the best of America—has never been greater. Especially in these difficult and tumultuous times, I believe that an increased Peace Corps presence in regions with significant anti-American sentiment could help to foster greater mutual understanding and tolerance between Americans and the communities they serve.

After all, these volunteers are really the heart and soul of the Peace Corps. They are the ones on the front lines, working hard, making one-on-one connections with the citizens of the countries in which they work. For 42 years, they have brought a wealth of practical experience to communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. And, I believe it is important to recognize that the enduring success of the Peace Corps is rooted in each volunteer's commitment to leave behind skills that allow people to take charge of their own futures.

The Peace Corps is a truly remarkable institution in America, a symbol of the very best of our ideals of service, sacrifice, and self-reliance. I believe that we must provide sufficient resources for the Peace Corps so that it can increase the number of volunteers in the field and continue its noble mission. National Peace Corps Day honors its volunteers, past and present, and reaffirms our country's commitment to helping our friends and neighbors throughout the world. Mr. President, in recognition of National Peace Corps day and in light of the special service this institution performs for our nation and the global community, I reaffirm my strong support of and commitment to this invaluable institution. I hope my colleagues and fellow Americans will do the same.

I thank the President. •

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA COY

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, my office encountered a loss this past weekend. My first military fellow, Lt. Col. Tim Coy, U.S. Air Force, lost his wife after a battle with cancer. Barbara Louise Coy, age 43, passed away in Woodbridge, VA, on Saturday, March 1, 2003. She was born on July 30, 1959, at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, CA, she graduated from Hampton High School, Hampton, VA. She accompanied Tim on his many military assignments to Nevada, Wyoming, California, Colorado, and Virginia. She leaves behind her husband of